United Nations A/BUR/61/SR.1

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

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## General Committee

**Summary record of the 1st meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 September 2006, at 11 a.m.

*Chairman*: Ms. Al Khalifa (President of the General Assembly) ..... **(Bahrain)**

## Contents

Organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

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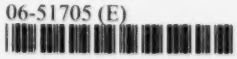
06-51705 (E)



*The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.*

**Organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items** (A/BUR/61/1 and Add.1)

*Memorandum by the Secretary-General*

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General regarding the organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/61/1 and Add.1).

*II. Organization of the session*

2. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and said that she trusted that she would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session.

3. *The Committee took note of all the relevant information contained in chapter II of the memorandum. It decided to draw to the attention of the General Assembly all the necessary information and to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals contained in that chapter.*

4. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the information contained in paragraph 41 of the memorandum on the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase "within available resources" and the Advisory Committee's views on the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the General Assembly regarding the availability of resources to implement a new activity.*

*III. Observations on the organization of the work of the General Assembly*

5. *The Committee decided to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the information contained in chapter III of the memorandum.*

*IV. Adoption of the agenda*

6. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the draft agenda was organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, and the priorities of the Organization for the period 2006-2007 as set out in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 59/278.

*Paragraphs 49-51*

7. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 49 to 51 of the memorandum.*

*Inclusion of items*

8. **The Chairman** said that, since the agenda was now organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, the Committee might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases the placement of items under appropriate headings.

9. The draft agenda contained 12 new items, namely items 41, 42, 114, 149 and 151 to 158, under various headings.

*Paragraph 52*

*Items 1-8*

10. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 52 of the memorandum and to paragraph 3 of document A/BUR/61/1/Add.1. Items 1 to 8 were not under any heading. The General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 to 3. Items 4 to 8 related to organizational matters.

11. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 1 to 8.

*Heading A. Maintenance of international peace and security*

*Item 38. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India*

12. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon), supported by **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom), said that, following consultations with the representatives of France and Madagascar, and without prejudice to the positions of those two countries, his delegation proposed that the

Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 38 should be deferred to its sixty-second session.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 38 should be deferred to its sixty-second session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda for that session.*

*Item 41. A proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia*

14. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 41 had been proposed in document A/61/193 by a number of countries.

15. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) said that although General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) on China's representation in the United Nations provided the Organization and its agencies with the legal basis and political principle for handling any Taiwan-related matter, regrettably, every year since 1993, the General Committee had had to spend time discussing the question.

16. Faced with a very heavy schedule, the General Assembly could use its time more productively by focusing on matters of vital importance to the global community, such as international peace and security and sustainable development.

17. In the spirit of United Nations reform and the revitalization of the General Assembly, as set forth in the World Summit Outcome, and based on the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, his delegation wished to propose that the General Committee should apply the same model that it had followed the previous year in handling the proposal related to the Taiwan question.

18. Thus, the General Committee should consider items 41 and 155 of the draft agenda together in order to save General Assembly resources and ensure the best use of its time, and also to increase the Committee's efficiency.

19. Taking into account the clear position of the majority of Member States, there was no need for lengthy debate. Rather, there should be two speakers in favour and two against, and the duration of each statement should be no more than six minutes. After the statements were made, the Chairman would rule on whether or not to include the supplementary items in the agenda.

20. **Mr. Merores** (Haiti) said that the issue of the Organization's role in maintaining peace and security in East Asia transcended the question of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and that the two items should be considered separately.

21. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China) expressed his delegation's support for the Ugandan proposal, which not only reflected the positions of most States Members of the United Nations and of the General Committee but was also consistent with efforts to reform and improve the working methods of the United Nations.

22. Depending on the exact intent of the remarks by the representative of Haiti, the Committee might wish to vote on the Ugandan proposal or adopt it without a vote.

23. **Mr. Shcherbak** (Russian Federation), **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria), **Mr. Labbé** (Chile), **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal), **Mr. Al-Otaibi** (Kuwait), **Mr. Jenie** (Indonesia), **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon), **Mr. Rinchhen** (Bhutan) and **Ms. Nyamudeza** (Zimbabwe) expressed support for the Ugandan proposal.

24. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) supported the Ugandan proposal and praised China's efforts to support and protect the interests of the people of Taiwan.

25. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) also expressed support for the Ugandan proposal and for China's remarks thereon.

26. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that her country was in favour of the Ugandan proposal and had always supported the one-China principle.

27. **The Chairman** said that she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposal made by the representative of Uganda.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Gambia had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

30. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.*

31. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia) said that the Chairman had violated rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly by ignoring a written request submitted by his delegation, even though only a limited number of speakers would have spoken. He would reserve his right to return to the issue once a legal opinion on the Chairman's decision had been obtained. The issue in question affected an entire region, not only Taiwan. He had no doubt that his views were shared by other delegations.

32. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China) said that his delegation firmly opposed inclusion of items 41 and 155 in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The raising of the question of Taiwan by a small number of countries constituted gross interference in China's internal affairs and a blatant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His Government had stated its position on the issue in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 15 August 2006.

33. There was only one China, and Taiwan was an inseparable part of China's territory. The "one-China" principle had been recognized by the overwhelming majority of Member States. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved once and for all by the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI) in 1971. That resolution stated unequivocally that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Since Taiwan was a part of China's territory, China's representation at the United Nations naturally included Taiwan. The so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations" therefore did not exist and, since 1993, the Committee had always refused to recommend its inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly.

34. His Government had consistently adhered to the principle of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems". It continued to promote the development of cross-Strait relations, including through mutual beneficial exchanges and consultations held on an equal footing. Recent efforts in that regard had been welcomed by Taiwan compatriots and widely approved by the international community. Positive steps had been made to curb the movement for "Taiwan independence" and there was increasing momentum for peace and stability. However, the Taiwan authorities had done their utmost to disrupt that process by accelerating secessionist activities. Chen Shui-bien had brazenly announced his decision to end the function of Taiwan's National Unification Council and cease the application of the "National Unification Guidelines" and had speeded up his efforts to push for "*de jure* Taiwan independence" through "constitutional re-engineering". If not curbed in time, such activities would cause serious tension in cross-Strait relations and threaten peace and stability in the region.

35. Respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries were important principles of the Charter. The question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter for China and should be settled jointly by the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. No foreign force had the right to interfere. His delegation strongly urged the countries that supported inclusion of the item to do nothing further to encourage secessionist activities and offend the Chinese people. It appreciated the just position adopted by the vast majority of Member States.

36. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Nicaragua had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

37. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua) took a place at the Committee table.*

38. **Mr. Sevilla Somoza** (Nicaragua) said that limiting debate on the item was not consistent with the Charter and was tantamount to censure. He would await a legal opinion on the matter before making further comments.

39. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) said that his Government's position in upholding a "one-China" policy and opposing inclusion of the items was supported by the majority of delegations. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had clearly recognized the representatives of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. The issue of Taiwan had been legally settled as far as the United Nations was concerned, and the United Nations had clearly pronounced Taiwan to be an inseparable part of China. There were thus no legal grounds for discussing an issue which was an internal matter for China. In the interest of the reform of the General Assembly and

given the Committee's procedural history, the Chairman was entitled to exercise the power vested in her by limiting debate on the item.

40. *The Committee decided not to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 41 and 155.*

41. *Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) and Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua) withdrew.*

*Item 42. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development*

42. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 42 had been proposed in document A/61/195 by Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

43. **Mr. Shcherbak** (Russian Federation), supported by **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal), **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China), **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) and **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria) said that the item had been discussed in detail at the previous session. In the interest of optimizing the Committee's work, he thus proposed that only two delegations should speak in favour of inclusion of the item and only two speakers against, and that the duration of each statement should be more than six minutes.

44. The Chairman said that the representatives of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

45. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Aghajanian (Armenia), Mr. Kryzhanivskyi (Ukraine) and Mr. Tulbure (Republic of Moldova) took places at the Committee table.*

46. **Mr. Shcherbak** (Russian Federation) recalled that the Committee had considered the issue of the inclusion of item 42 at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, and that the GUAM States had not received the necessary support on that occasion. His delegation remained convinced that the proposal brought into question negotiating mechanisms whose potential had not yet been fully exhausted.

47. The successful resolution of the conflicts in the region depended on the efforts and the political will of those directly involved. Focused efforts continued to be made within existing international mechanisms and, as a result of those efforts, stability had been maintained and the situation in the region was not a threat to international peace and security. The continued success of the conflict-resolution process would depend on continued cooperation within existing mechanisms, including the General Assembly. His delegation would therefore vote against the inclusion of item 42, especially as the agenda for the Assembly at its sixty-first session was already very full.

48. **Mr. Kryzhanivskyi** (Ukraine), speaking on behalf of the GUAM States, namely Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the request for the inclusion of item 42 fully complied with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.

49. As set forth in the explanatory memorandum attached as an annex to the letter sent to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representatives of the four countries (A/61/195), the request had been made because of the dangerous situation in the area and because of the lack of progress in settling the protracted conflicts in the region.

50. Despite international mediation the conflicts had been running for over 15 years, and had had far-reaching negative implications for international peace and security, as well as for regional stability and development. They had also had a negative impact on the political, social and economic situation in those States and affected the lives of millions of people. There was no indication that the situation was improving.

51. The GUAM States were confident that consideration of the issue in the General Assembly would have a positive impact on the peace process. They certainly were not seeking to alter the format of the ongoing peace negotiations, but rather to bring the situation to the attention of a broader spectrum of the international community.

52. **Mr. Tulbure** (Republic of Moldova) said that the GUAM States had been trying for many years to win the inclusion of just one single item in the agenda of the General Assembly. Moreover, it was an item that would not involve sending peacekeeping troops or spending the Organization's resources, and it was an item that addressed protracted conflicts in a number of countries.

53. If the Organization was prepared to deny a Member State its fundamental right to be heard, he

wondered what the purpose of the Organization was at all. The United Nations was supposed to be about engaging in dialogue and discussion, about conflict resolution, and about providing assistance to those in need. He therefore called upon the Committee to discuss the issue, which was of vital interest to a considerable number of countries, and to adhere to the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

54. The international community should not wait for the protracted or "frozen" conflicts of the Black Sea region to deteriorate. It was better to be proactive than reactive, in order both to save resources and, more importantly, to save lives. Certain members of the Organization wished to prevent discussion and dialogue, and the result would be to threaten peace and stability in the region. The Committee was perfectly placed to prevent this from happening, and his delegation trusted in the wisdom of its members to take the appropriate action.

55. **Ms. Aghajanian** (Armenia) said that her delegation was unequivocally opposed to the inclusion of item 42 in the agenda of the General Assembly. The item sought to take a global approach to four different conflicts which had different origins and different legal and historical backgrounds and whose negotiation processes were at different stages.

56. The negotiation process for the conflict in the Nagorno Karabagh Republic was well under way, and the parties were working together with the mediators to find durable solutions, as reflected in the statement issued by the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 6 December 2005.

57. The justifications given in the explanatory memorandum issued by the GUAM States were flawed. The difficulties in the negotiating process could certainly not be described as leading to the "prolongation" of the conflicts. Moreover, in recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the authors of the proposal had demonstrated a one-sided approach and had failed to affirm all the fundamental principles involved. For example, the memorandum did not contain any reference to the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, a principle which was crucial to conflict resolution.

58. The proposal reflected an attempt to create processes that were parallel to those which already existed under OSCE auspices, and were thus a further demonstration of Azerbaijan's continued efforts to affect the peace negotiations being carried out by the Minsk Group. That was totally unacceptable to her delegation.

59. Armenia recognized the right of any Member State to propose any item for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly. However, the introduction of a new agenda item, during the General Assembly's current revitalization process and despite the fact that the relevant issues could be discussed under at least three other agenda items, was a clear abuse of the Assembly's rules of procedure and was totally unacceptable.

60. The Committee decided not to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 42.

61. *Ms. Aghajanian (Armenia), Mr. Kryzhanivskyi (Ukraine) and Mr. Tulbure (Republic of Moldova) withdrew.*

62. **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was concerned at the lack of progress in resolving the conflicts in the Black Sea region. It strongly supported the work under way in the Minsk Group and the work being carried out with respect to Georgia by the Friends of the Secretary-General. The United Kingdom would have voted in favour of the proposal on the principle that the Committee should not try to prevent discussion in the General Assembly on an issue which other Member States had put forward. That did not mean that the United Kingdom would vote in favour of any subsequent resolution on the matter in the General Assembly. Any text resulting from the proposal would need to be considered on its merits.

63. **Mr. Wasilewski** (United States of America) said that, had it taken place, a vote on the inclusion of item 42 would have been purely procedural, and that the United States would have voted in favour of its inclusion. However, such a vote would have carried no implications for his delegation's substantive attitude with respect to any eventual resolution or debate in the plenary.

64. It was the Committee's well-established custom to respect and uphold the rights of all General

Assembly members to put forward matters of fundamental concern for transparent deliberation in the plenary, unless there were extraordinary opposing arguments. In the present case the Committee would have been considering a request that had been duly and jointly formulated, signed and submitted by the four Permanent Representatives of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

65. His Government was naturally aware of the argument that the initiative might negatively affect negotiations on the conflicts in the Black Sea region. It had paid proper attention to that risk, but did not judge it so grave as to justify depriving the four nations of their right to bring the issue before the General Assembly. However, his Government's policy in all substantive discussion of the issue would continue to be guided exclusively by that which it deemed could help, not harm, the peaceful resolution of the long-running conflicts in question.

66. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly in the agenda the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 38, 41 and 42.*

*Heading B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences*

67. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading B.*

*Heading C. Development of Africa*

68. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading C.*

*Heading D. Promotion of human rights*

69. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading D.*

*Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts*

70. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading E.*

*Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law*

71. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein) said that his delegation, together with the delegation of Mexico, had proposed the inclusion of agenda item 152 under heading F.

72. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had taken note of the proposal of the representative of Liechtenstein.

73. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading F.*

*Heading G. Disarmament*

74. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading G.*

*Heading H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations*

75. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading H.*

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*

United Nations A/BUR/61/SR.2

# General Assembly
Sixty-first session

## Official Records

Distr.: General
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## General Committee

**Summary record of the 2nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 September 2006, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Ms. Al Khalifa ..... (Bahrain)
(President of the General Assembly)

## Contents

Organization of work of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

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06-51935 (E)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.*

**Organization of work of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items** (*continued*) (A/BUR/61/1 and Add.1)

*IV. Adoption of the agenda (continued)*

*Inclusion of items (continued)*

*Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters*

*Item 114. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission*

1. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading A of item 114.*

*Item 149. Report of the Human Rights Council*

2. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading D of item 149.*

*Item 151. Observer status of the OPEC Fund for International Development in the General Assembly*

*Item 153. Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly*

*Item 158. Requests for observer status in the General Assembly*

3. **The Chairman** said that, since it had a direct bearing on items 151 and 153, the Committee would first consider item 158, requested for inclusion by Liechtenstein in document A/61/232.

4. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Saudi Arabia had asked to participate in the discussion in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sallam (Saudi Arabia) took a place at the Committee table.*

6. **Mr. Ritter** (Liechtenstein), supported by **Mr. Sallam** (Saudi Arabia) and **Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands), said the item was intended to simplify the procedure for requests for observer status in order to allow the Sixth Committee to deal directly with such requests.

7. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 158 and decided not to recommend the inclusion of items 151 and 153.*

8. *Mr. Sallam (Saudi Arabia) withdrew.*

*Item 152. The rule of law at the national and international levels*

9. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading F of item 152.*

*Item 154. International Year of Reconciliation, 2009*

10. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 154 had been requested by Nicaragua in document A/61/192. The representative of Nicaragua had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

11. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua) took a place at the Committee table.*

12. **Mr. Sevilla Somoza** (Nicaragua) said that while economic and political ties had led the world along the path of globalization and unity in justice and peace, new conflicts had also arisen. Item 154 was an initiative based on a new philosophy of peace and global reconciliation to eradicate all forms of violence among countries, cultures, religions, ethnic groups, genders, generations and the environment.

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 154.*

14. *Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua) withdrew.*

*Item 156. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste*

15. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 156.*

*Item 157. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund*

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 157.*

*Item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme"*

17. **The Chairman** said that Iraq and Costa Rica had requested the inclusion of an item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme" in the agenda for the sixty-first session. The representative of Costa Rica had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

18. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Chassoul (Costa Rica) took a place at the Committee table.*

19. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) drew attention to the fact that the question had been included in the agenda for the sixtieth session as item 160.

20. **Ms. Chassoul** (Costa Rica) said that her delegation had been dismayed to learn, after the decision to defer consideration of the evaluation of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the Oil-for-Food Programme from the sixtieth to the sixty-first session, that the item had been dropped from the draft agenda. She requested its reinstatement as Member States needed to be informed of the findings of the Independent Inquiry Committee.

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of the item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme".*

22. *Ms. Chassoul (Costa Rica) withdrew.*

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading I, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 114, 149, 151 to 158 and the item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme".*

*V. Allocation of items*

*Paragraphs 53-55*

24. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 53 to 55.*

*Paragraph 56*

25. **The Chairman** said that paragraph 56 dealt with items of the draft agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, she would request the Committee to make a recommendation on the allocation of those items, recommended for inclusion in the agenda for the sixty-first session.

26. *It was so decided.*

*Paragraph 57*

27. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee. The Committee would therefore proceed accordingly when it considered the allocation of 158, concerning observer status.

*Item 114. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission*

28 **The Chairman** said that no specific mention had been made of the allocation of the item.

29. **Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands), supported by **Mr. Labbé** (Chile) and **Mr. Llewellyn** (United Kingdom), said that item 114 should be considered directly in plenary meeting since the work of the Peacebuilding Commission was connected to that of the main bodies of the Organization.

30. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 114 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*Item 149. Report of the Human Rights Council*

31. **The Chairman** said that she had received a letter from the President of the Human Rights Council suggesting that the report of the Council should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

32. **Mr. Jenie** (Indonesia) said that the Human Rights Council, mandated by General Assembly resolution 60/251 to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international law in the field of human rights, was currently undertaking the groundwork to become fully functional. In the view of his delegation, it should report to the General Assembly through the Third Committee, so that its work could receive full consideration. In 2006, the Council was recommending two important draft human rights instruments for adoption by the General Assembly: the United Nations draft declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Those instruments would assume greater legitimacy if the whole membership were given sufficient time to discuss them, which could be achieved only if they were submitted first to the Third Committee.

33. **Mr. Labbé** (Chile) said that his delegation had taken note of the letter from the President of the Human Rights Council. He recalled that, during the negotiations leading to the establishment of the Human Rights Council, there had been two schools of thought with regard to its status. Most States, including Chile, considered the Council to be a major body in its own right within the United Nations system, while others saw it as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The provisional solution to that divergence of opinion had been that the Council's work and functioning would be reviewed and its final status decided five years after its establishment. Since the Council was for the time being a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, it might appear logical for it to report to the General Assembly through the Third Committee. However, analysis of and a conceptual discussion on the draft human rights instruments submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-first session had already taken place in the Commission on Human Rights, so that all that remained was a political decision by the General Assembly. In view of the importance of the Council within the United Nations system, its report should be discussed in plenary meeting and not in the Third Committee.

34. **Ms. Zhang** Dan (China) said that her delegation agreed with the proposal made by the representative of Indonesia. Pursuant to rule 98 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, human rights-related issues had always been considered by the Third Committee, which had the necessary expertise. Moreover, under rule 97, all items relating to the same category of subjects should be referred to the committee dealing with that category. There was, therefore, no reason why the Human Rights Council report should not be considered by the Third Committee.

35. **Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands) said that pursuant to paragraph 5 (j) of resolution 60/251, the Council was required to submit an annual report to the General Assembly. In his delegation's view, since the Council was a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, it would be logical, as well as more flexible, for its report to be considered directly in the plenary Assembly. Not only would that avoid placing an unnecessary burden on the Third Committee, whose agenda was already full, but it would also ensure that the Council's annual report covered all its sessions.

36. **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria), mindful of the limited membership of the Human Rights Council, supported the proposal made by the representative of Indonesia and agreed with the views expressed by the representative of China. Submitting the Human Rights Council report to the Third Committee would allow Member States to address fully the important issues that were the subject of the Council's recommendations, thereby giving the Council the legitimacy and credibility it deserved. It was, in any case, a temporary measure, pending a decision on the Council's final status in five years' time.

37. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) said that his delegation had taken note of the letter from the President of the Human Rights Council. He agreed with the representative of China, however, that rule 97 of the rules of procedure applied, and he therefore supported the proposal of the representative of Indonesia.

38. **Mr. Nikiforov** (Russian Federation) said that he was firmly convinced that, pursuant to rule 97 of the rules of procedure, for reasons of substance and organization, the Human Rights Council report should be submitted to the Third Committee.

39. **Ms. Intelmann** (Estonia), **Ms. Juul** (Norway) and **Ms. Dinić** (Croatia) supported the proposal for the

report of the Human Rights Council to be considered directly in plenary meeting.

40. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) and **Ms. Nyamudeza** (Zimbabwe) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Indonesia and supported his proposal.

41. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein), reiterating his delegation's commitment to the Human Rights Council and recalling the important relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, said that paragraph 5 (j) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 was not the only provision governing that relationship. Pursuant to the same resolution, the Council was to make recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international law, and not necessarily in its annual report. His delegation believed that those recommendations should be submitted to the Third Committee, whereas the annual report should be considered directly in plenary meeting. If rule 97 of the rules of procedure were invariably interpreted in the way suggested by some speakers, virtually nothing would be referred directly to the plenary Assembly, which was not, of course, the case. The best solution, therefore, would be to refer the Council's annual report directly to the plenary Assembly while entrusting the Third Committee with consideration of the Council's recommendations.

42. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon) said that his delegation took note of the letter from the President of the Human Rights Council. He drew attention to rule 65 as well as to rule 97 of the rules of procedure. Since human rights were a basic pillar of the Organization, all related issues required a full analysis and, therefore, ought to be considered by the Third Committee, as proposed by the representative of Indonesia.

43. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) said that his delegation strongly supported the proposal of the representative of Indonesia. The Third Committee was responsible for examining all human rights issues, including the work of the Human Rights Council. It was important for the considerable experience of small countries, such as his own, to be taken into account, and that would be possible only if the report were submitted to the Third Committee.

44. **Mr. Llewellyn** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation firmly supported the proposal of the President of the Human Rights Council. In view of the importance of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, its annual report should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

45. **Mr. Simancas Gutiérrez** (Mexico), voicing his agreement with the remarks made by the representative of Liechtenstein, said that since the Council was a new body an examination of the precedents set by other organs, such as the Economic and Social Council, would be useful. In any event, the Committee had just decided that the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission would be referred directly to the plenary Assembly, while a number of related issues had already been allocated to subsidiary committees. Accordingly, whereas the report of the Human Rights Council might be submitted directly to the plenary Assembly, its recommendations and all other related matters could be examined by the relevant committee, namely the Third Committee.

46. **Mr. Lacroix** (France) said that, in common with the other member States of the European Union represented in the General Committee, his delegation was in favour of the proposal made by the President of the Human Rights Council. Nevertheless, he had taken note of the arguments in favour of submitting the report of the Human Rights Council, the first of its kind, to the Third Committee. The Committee needed to decide quickly, yet the compromise proposal made by the representative of Liechtenstein and endorsed by the representative of Mexico, offering a possible solution to the problem, would require further examination. As had been suggested by the representative of Nigeria, whichever decision the General Committee took at the sixty-first session should be regarded as provisional and not creating a precedent for later sessions.

47. **Mr. Mubarak** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in consonance with the General Assembly's rules and procedure, his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Indonesia.

48. **The Chairman** said that she took it that the Committee wished to defer a decision on the matter to a later date.

49. *It was so decided.*

*Item 152. The rule of law at the national and international levels*

50. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 152 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

*Item 154. International Year of Reconciliation*

51. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 154 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*Item 156. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste*

52. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 156 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

*Item 157. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund*

53. **The Chairman** said that no specific mention had been made of the allocation of the item.

54. **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom) proposed that the report on the Peacebuilding Fund should be considered directly in plenary meeting along with the report on the Peacebuilding Commission, given the work that the Fund did in supporting development and post-conflict resolution.

55. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 157 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*Item 158. Requests for observer status in the General Assembly*

56. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 158 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

*Item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations and administrative and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme"*

57. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme" should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*Item 31. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects*

58. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 31 of the draft agenda should also be allocated to the Sixth Committee in order to allow the Sixth Committee to consider the report of the Group of Legal Experts (A/60/980).*

*Item 43. Report of the Economic and Social Council*

59. *The Committee took note of paragraph 58 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 43 in its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.*

*Item 48. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields*

*Item 112. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit*

*Item 150. United Nations reform: measures and proposals*

60. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 59 and 60.*

61. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 48, 112 and 150 of the draft agenda should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for the consideration of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.*

*Item 56 (b). International migration and development*

*Item 57 (c). Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*

*Item 58 (c). Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty*

62. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 62 and 64.*

*Item 62. Advancement of women*

63. *The Committee decided to recommend the suggested allocation for item 62.*

*Item 89. General and complete disarmament*

64. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 80.*

*Item 101. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization*

65. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General of his annual report prior to the opening of the general debate.*

*Item 109. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly*

66. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 109 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.*

*Item 118. Programme planning*

67. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 118 of the draft agenda should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.*

*Item 128. Administration of justice at the United Nations*

68. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 128 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for its consideration and to the Sixth Committee for the purpose of considering the legal aspects, both institutional and procedural, of the comments by the Secretary-General on the recommendations contained in the report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice.*

*Plenary Assembly*

69. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 56 (b), 57 (a), 58 (a), 114, 118, 154 and 157 and the item entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme", should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

*First Committee*

70. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109 and 118, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*

71. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account the decisions taken regarding the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" and items 109 and 118, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Second Committee*

72. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109 and 118, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Third Committee*

73. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109 and 118, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Fifth Committee*

74. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 48, 109, 112, 150, 156 and 157, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*Sixth Committee*

75. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 31, 109, 118, 128, 151, 152, 153 and 158, should be allocated to that Committee.*

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*

United Nations A/BUR/61/SR.3

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Sixty-first session

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## General Committee

**Summary record of the 3rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 18 October 2006, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Ms. Al Khalifa..... (Bahrain)
(President of the General Assembly)

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06-57666 (E)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items** (*continued*)

*Request for the inclusion of an additional item by Saint Lucia* (A/61/233)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by Saint Lucia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" (A/61/233). The representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica) took places at the Committee table.*

3. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, said that the year 2007 would mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, which had begun the process leading to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. Recognition of that important anniversary by the United Nations would present an opportunity for the international community to honour the memory of the millions who had died as a result of slavery and to acknowledge the legacy of slavery as being at the heart of situations of profound social and economic inequality, hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice, which continued to affect people of African descent to the present day. Slavery and the slave trade were among the most serious violations of human rights in the history of humanity and represented a low point of human brutality. Yet it had taken nearly 200 years for the international community to acknowledge slavery a crime against humanity, and the issue of reparations and compensation for that crime was still outstanding.

4. The issue was one of fundamental importance to the members of the Caribbean Community, who hoped that they could count on other friends and partners in the United Nations to help in commemorating an event that was at the core of their history and existence. The letter requesting the inclusion of the item included, in addition to an explanatory memorandum, a proposed draft resolution. The CARICOM countries had already been assured that the African Group and many others would join in sponsoring the resolution.

5. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, said that the previous speaker had rightly emphasized that the commemoration of the anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade was not only a matter of importance to the Caribbean States but one that should stir the conscience of humanity. It had taken nearly 200 years for the international community to acknowledge slavery as a crime against humanity, a crime of genocide. Other crimes of genocide had been commemorated in the recent past. He would urge Member States to join in sponsoring the proposed draft resolution.

6. **Mr. Baja** (Philippines) and **Ms. Cheng** Hong (China) said that their delegations warmly supported the inclusion of the item and intended to become sponsors of the resolution.

7. **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria) said that the United Nations should demonstrate awareness of the profound impact of the transatlantic slave trade. His delegation supported inclusion of the item and intended to sponsor the resolution.

8. **Mr. Butagira** (Uganda) said that the slave trade represented a serious crime against humanity that called for reparations and a full apology. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the inclusion of the agenda item and intended to sponsor the resolution.

9. **Mr. Muñoz** (Chile) said that the Committee had rarely seen a request for an additional item as timely, important and substantial as the request submitted by the CARICOM countries. The commemoration should serve as a reminder that the international community should never forget or overlook the commission of such heinous crimes as the slave trade. His delegation supported the inclusion of the item and anticipated sponsoring the resolution in the General Assembly.

10. **Mr. Mérorès** (Haiti) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the remarks of the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica explaining the reasons for the inclusion of the item. Haiti had been one of the first nations to suffer from the transatlantic slave trade and one of the first to

break free of slavery, but the countries affected had suffered and continued to suffer from the aftermath. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the inclusion of the item, it intended to be a sponsor of the resolution and encouraged others to do so.

11. **Mr. Anshor** (Indonesia) said that it was important for the international community to recognize that the transatlantic slave trade had been one of the worst violations of human rights in mankind's history and had left a legacy of economic and social inequality, racism, prejudice and bigotry in many parts of the world. Most importantly, the commemoration would serve as a reminder of the constant need for the United Nations to take measures to prevent the recurrence of such practices in their contemporary forms. His delegation supported the request for inclusion of the item.

12. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation joined others in supporting the inclusion of the item and hoped that it would serve to remind the international community of the need to implement the decisions taken by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

13. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) said that it was only just reparation to commemorate the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. His delegation warmly supported the inclusion of the item and intended to sponsor the resolution.

14. **Mr. Belinga-Eboutou** (Cameroon) said that the African States had had occasion already to express their support for the initiative by the CARICOM countries to commemorate the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. His delegation stood ready to support the inclusion of the item and to sponsor the resolution. The purpose of the commemoration was to re-read history in order to learn lessons that would help the international community to ensure that such a thing never happened again.

15. **Mr. Mubarak** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the slave trade had constituted a heinous crime against humanity that called for action within the United Nations and was condemned by all the African States. His delegation supported the proposed inclusion of the item and encouraged others to do so.

16. **Mr. Wood** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully supported the inclusion of the item and looked forward to working with others to ensure a consensus outcome.

17. **Mr. Yousfi** (Algeria) said that slavery was one of the most serious crimes that had been committed in the history of mankind. His delegation therefore supported the inclusion of the item and would be happy to sponsor the resolution.

18. **Mr. Rinchhen** (Bhutan) and **Mr. Al-Murad** (Kuwait) said that their delegations supported the inclusion of the item.

19. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Benin had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to accede to his request.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Zinsou (Benin) took a place at the Committee table.*

22. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that Benin had been one of the centres of the slave trade that had drained Africa of its lifeblood and was one of the root causes of the situation that prevailed in Africa to the present day. In 1992 Benin had set up a programme to promote reconciliation between Africa and the Black diaspora in the Americas that had resulted from the slave trade. His delegation hoped to see the matter receive the attention it deserved in the General Assembly and stood ready to sponsor the resolution.

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" under heading I.*

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

25. *Ms. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica) and Mr. Zinsou (Benin) withdrew.*

*Request for the inclusion of an additional item: note by the Secretary-General* (A/61/234)

26. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request contained in a note by the Secretary-General (A/61/234) for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Extension of the terms of the ad litem judges of the

International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Extension of the terms of the ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994" under heading I.*

28. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

*V. Allocation of items*

*Item 68. Report of the Human Rights Council*

29. **The Chairman** reported that her Office had conducted consultations on the matter of allocating item 68, Report of the Human Rights Council. A number of compromise formulas had been put forward in the spirit of reaching consensus on the issue, and those initiatives represented progress and commitment by all Member States to reaching an agreement. In the light of the importance attached to the work of the Human Rights Council and its report, she appealed to all members of the Committee to continue to strive to reach a compromise solution promptly.

*The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.*